passions, the demoniacal deeds which have been committed around the martyr's funeral pile. So potent is this principle, that we believe it capable of explaining the fearful scenes at the foot of the Cross, where the meekest of sufferers was denied the sympathy which has not been withheld at a dying hour even from the vilest malefactor.

If we would understand all the effects which follow from a condemning conscience, we must not forget that the passions are often irritated and inflamed by the opposition offered to them. It is proverbial that what is forbidden is apt to be the more eagerly sought after. Nor is it difficult to account for this. The mind under the influence of desire dwells on the prohibition and the thing prohibited, becomes more eagerly bent on obtaining it, and chafes at the denial. The effect of the interposition of the conscience in such circumstances is only to exasperate the mind; just as the rocks which do not impede the stream serve to dash it into greater violence. The natural effect of a monitor warning, without being attended to, must be an increased irritability of spirit. The ocean, even when the waves are high, never seems to rage in all its fury except at the shore, where it is opposed by breakers; the deepest stream will flow along softly, and almost imperceptibly, till it meets with opposing rocks or cliffs, which dash it from one to another, when it is forthwith lashed into foam ; and it is from a like cause that the rebellious temper of man rages against the conscience, when it would lay restraints upon him. Paul seems to refer to this power of an awakened con-science :—•' Sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence." As the prisoner will tear his chains, and beat upon his prison walls, so will the spirit of man fret and rage, when it feels its fetters, and yet is not able to break them. It is the wild beast beating upon its cage, and, indignant at every restraint upon it, becoming

more furious than
when it ranged in the forest. Scourged by remorse,
there are
multitudes who have sought to drown their pain
by the most.
frantic movements. Criminals have been known,
with the view
of diverting their minds, to jest even upon the
scaffold. Others
have sought to madden their minds, and so to ease
their feelings,
by rushing into unblushing profligacy and daring
criminality,
and would drown the remembrance of old iniquities
by the noise
which new ones create.